Golden everlasting.

# CASTLEMAINE NATURALIST 34

APRIL 1979

President: Mrs R. Mills
Secretary: Mr G. Sitch
Treasurer: Mr L. Bransgrove.
News Sheet: Mr E. Perkins.

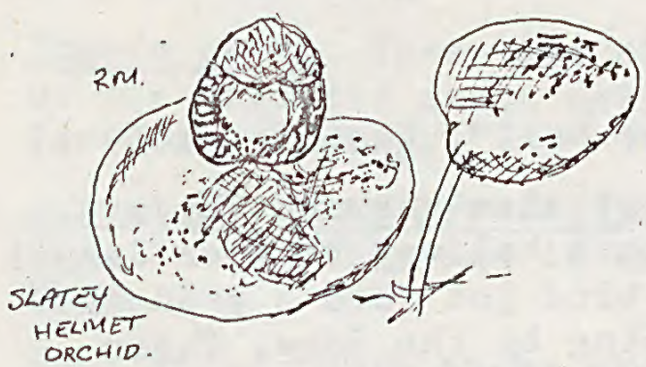
General meetings are usually held on the second Friday of each month (but on the second Thursday for April 1979), at the Castlemaine Education Centre, (SEC building), Mostyn Street, Castlemaine. Visitors and prospective members are invited to attend the club's sessions.

Orchids of the Castlemaine District Number 20 of a series

By Rita Mills.

## SLATEY HELMET ORCHID

(Corybas diemenicus)




This orchid is quite tiny, sitting directly on its heart shaped, slightly dished leaf, which in turn sits directly on the ground.

The flower is maroon and white, with a pale yellow tongue inside the hood, which is only about one centimetre across. The leaf is no more than three centimetres across and is frosty green underneath. Non-flowering plants put up one leaf on a 2-3 cm white stem, as illustrated.

It flowers in September-October.

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## A GARDEN CLUB FOR CASTLEMAINE

The first meeting of this proposed club will be at the Castlemaine Education Centre at 8.p.m. on Friday April 20.

## A KALIMNA PARK BIRD LIST

This is a list of birds recorded for Kalimna Park by Mr B. Singleton. Birds not recorded in the Kalimna list (Printed in Castlemaine Naturalist 12) are marked with x.

xWhite necked heron
White faced heron
xWhistling eagle ?
Wedge-tailed eagle
Grey goshawk *
xBrown quail
Spurwinged plover
Bronzewing pigeon
Galah
xSulphur-breasted cockatoo
Crimson rosella
Eastern rosella
xSpine-tailed swift
Kookaburra
Black-faced cuckoo-shrike
Pied currawong
xFlame robin
Scarlet robin
Rufous whistler
Grey shrike-thrush
Willie wagtail
Blue wren
White-throated treecreeper
Red wattle bird
xWhite-eared honeyeater
Eastern spinebill
Spotted pardalote
Silver-eye
xFiretailed finch ?
White-winged chough
Mudlark
Raven

( * seen only once - needs to be verified)

(From the Files of the "Mount Alexander Mail", December 1859 )

On Thursday last, an Emeu of the largest size was shot by a Mr Richardson, on the Bendigo Road, about halfway between Sawpit Gully (Elphinstone) and Harcourt. The bird got into a paddock from which it was prevented from escaping by the dogs. Their barking attracted the attention of their master, and on discovering the cause, he got a gun, and soo despatched the intruder.

Some idea of the magnitude of this emeu may be found, when it is stated that it measured seven feet three inches (2.2 m) from beak to claws, and weighed fifty seven pounds (26 kg). We believe that the emu is a very rare bird in the vicinity of Castlemaine, and especially one of such unusually large proportions as that noticed. (contributed by Ray Bradfield)

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Unless indicated, articles reflect the opinion of the author, and do not necessarily give Club policy.

## CASTLEMAINE CITY PLANNING

Some suggested areas of consideration raised at the sub-committee meeting were.

(a) Bicycle tracks Use of bicycles is likely to increase and provision of bicycle tracks should be considered. Land along Barkers Creek, Campbells Creek and Forest creek would possibly be suitable and fairly level. Another suitable place would be along the eastern side of Kennedy Street.

(b) Creek boundaries In many cities (and towns) the stream frontages are key areas with walking tracks, bicycle tracks, picnic areas and the like, and play a key role in nature conservation.
Endeavours to resume privately owned land along major creeks should be made.

(c) Happy Valley Lake Provision should be made in the plan for the lake

(d) Mostyn Street Monument Landscaping of this area is desirable (compare the monument at Albury)

(e) Central Parklands Playgrounds are fairly scarce in the central area of the town

(f) Unmade roads These are discussed on page 3 of this Issue. Some of the unformed roads could be suitable for bicycle tracks or for horse riding.

(g) Street Planting generally Planting should serve several purposes e.g. to beautify and to encourage animals, particularly birds.

(h) Bush areas Bush areas should be kept as such. This includes Kaweka, Kalimna, Wattle Flat forest, near the Technical School etc.

(i) Main entrances Some of these could be made more attractive, perhaps by judicious planting.

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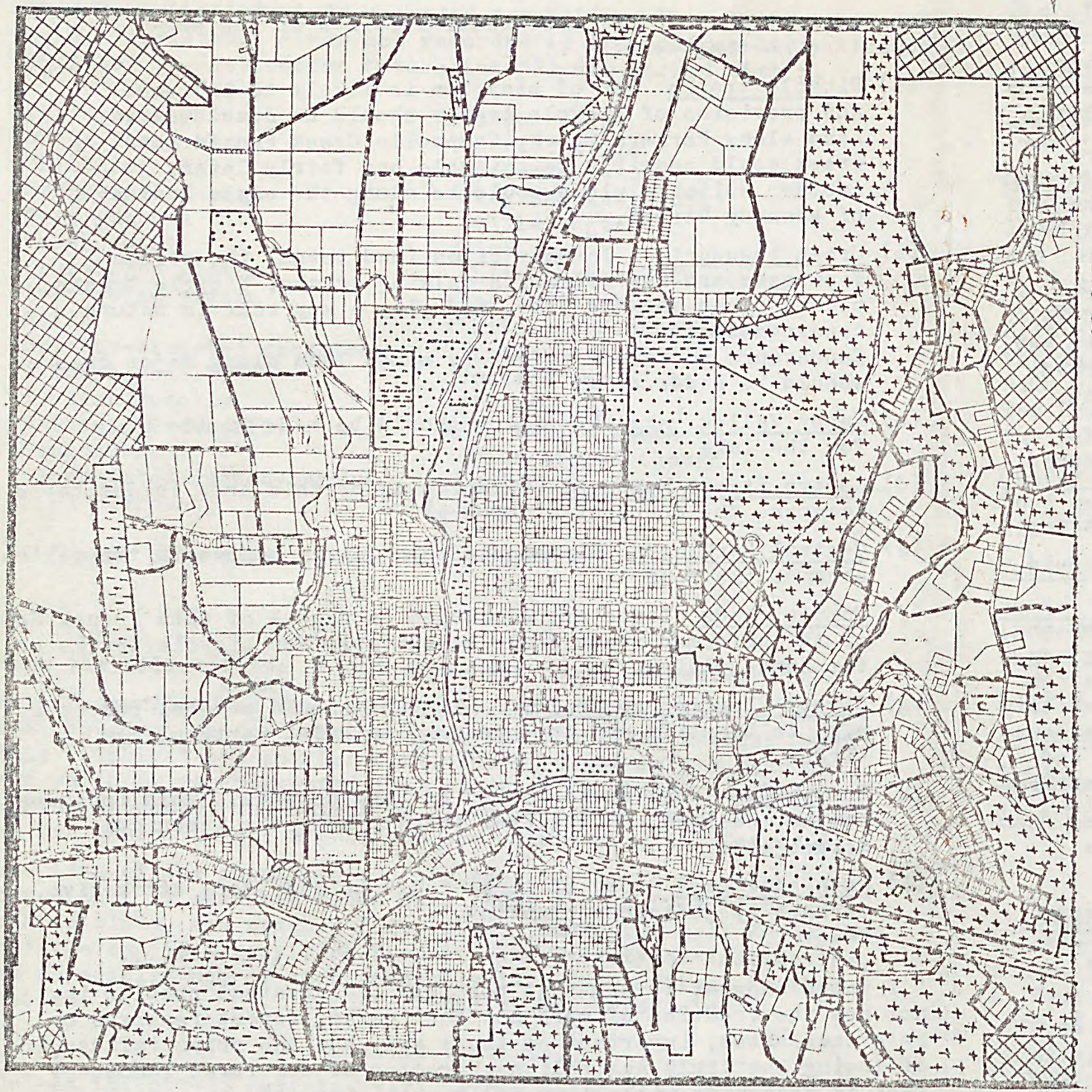
" I would suggest to you that possibly the greatest problem is not now the creation of more national parks, forest reserves or reference areas, important as these are, but the potential danger of losing the truly Australian character of our rural landscape that is happening without us fully realising it"

(from an Adress by Professor T.C. Chambers, Nov 1978)

CASTLEMAINE CITY COUNCIL PLANNING SCHEME



Parks, forest etc

Non-rateable land (schools, churches, rifle ranges, railways etc). Some small areas not shown)

Crown land (some small areas not shown)

Recreation resrves, gardens, golf course etc.

Formed roads and highways.

Unformed roads.

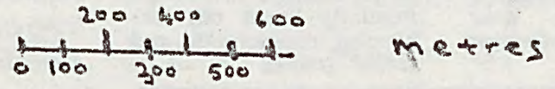
Perrott,Lyon Mathieson has been engaged by the Castlemaine City Council to prepare a planning scheme for the City of Castlemaine.

This club has been asked to make suggestions, for example

- The way in which land and buildings may/may not be used.
- Areas where growth will be permitted/restricted.
- Conservation and enhancement of buildings and areas of historical significance.
- Subdivision and the size of properties.
- Transport, parking and closure of streets.

The map on the left shows ownership of land in the City and the boundaries of the city. The scale is too small to show some of the smaller pieces of land.

The recent changes in the Kalimna Park area are not shown on this map



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# Roadside link in glider's life

By JENNIFER BYRNE
our Environmental Reporter

**Narrow strips of trees and other vegetation left growing beside roads play a vital role in the survival of a small marsupial, the sugar glider, in areas of fragmented forest.**

This is the finding of Monash University researcher Mr. Graeme Suckling, who has spent the last two years carrying out the first scientific capture, tag and observation study of sugar gliders.

Mr. Suckling, a Forests Commission officer on study leave, has found that roadside strips act as a bridge, linking fragments of forest which have been isolated by farmland or pasture.

The strips also serve as a habitat in their own right. Mr. Suckling has recorded denser glider populations in the strips — usually no more than one tree wide — than in the native forest.

Mr. Suckling's interest in the sugar gliders began while he was investigating the effects of forest fragmentation on native mammals for his Ph.D. thesis.

He was curious at the large number of sugar gliders which could be found in small, isolated blocks surrounded by farms and set out to find out why this happened.

Mr. Suckling concentrated his study on a number of forest fragments connected by a roadside strip 1.5 kilometres long near Rosedale in south-west Gippsland.

He captured and tagged about 30 gliders each day and found not only that the strip was used as a bridge between the fragments but it was also a breeding ground and independent habitat of gliders.

In fact, the glider population was more than twice as dense in the strip as in the isolated forest fragments nearby.

Mr. Suckling suggesterd yesterday, that diet was the main reason for this.

"There is a sugary gum exuded from acacia trees — black wattles — which is a favorite food of the glider. The absolute number and density of acacias is higher in the roadside strips than in the fragments and so gliders tend to congregate there," he said.

Beetles, grubs and moths which bred in neighboring pastures "swarmed" to the acacias at certain times of the year.

Their swarming coincided with the glider breeding season — providing food for the gliders and another attraction of the strip.

Acacias thrived in the strips because they were regularly burnt off, enhancing regeneration, and rarely grazed.

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Part of this Club's submission to the Land Conservation Council dealt with the importance of roadside vegetation, and its place in the conservation of animal life.

The article reprinted from the Age gives further support (although the species involved may be different).

Now, with the preparation of the Castlemaine City Planning Scheme under way, the part played by roads is again under review.

A suggested policy for both formed and unformed roads could be

-keep all existing trees

-treeless streets should be planted.

-when selecting trees and shrubs for planting, an important consideration should be the suitability of the species in encouraging animal life, and particularly native birds.

-preference should be given to indigenous species.

-mature trees and overmature trees should be kept - they provide nesting sites.

Members with notes or records of bird-life in roadside vegetation may wish to contribute to our knowledge of local conditions.

E.P.

## Castlemaine Field Naturalists ' Club Program

Thursday April 12 April meeting, at 8.00 pm. Subject: "Correas". Speaker is Mr G. Sitch,

Thursday April 26 Committee meeting. 8.00 pm, at Edn. Centre.

Friday April 27 Old Time Family Dance. Halls Gap Hall, 8.30 - 12.30. Adults $2, children free.

Saturday April 28 10.00 Short excursion; meet Halls Gap Hall.
10.30 a.m. Delegates meeting, WVFNCA. Lunch at 12.30 p.m.
1.30 p.m. Excursion. Leave Halls Gap Hall for Delleys Dell and Lake View Lookout.
7.30 p.m. Illustrated talk by Stawell Field Naturalists Club, to be held in the Halls Gap Hall.
8.15 p.m. Launching of A.C. Beauglehole's Mallee Report by the Guest of Honour, Dr Jim Willis.
9.00 p.m. "Northern Safari", by Cliff Beauglehole, Peter Ellis, Ted Errey, Graham Hill and Laurie Leeson. A journey through the Northern Territory, Arnhem Land, the Kimberleys, etc.

Sunday April 29 Excursion to Victoria Range via Sierra Road and Chimney Pot Gap to Aboriginal paintings. Return via Victoria Gap and Lodge Road.

Friday May 11 Meeting, at 8.00 p.m.

Sunday May 13 A bush walk in the Vaughan District. Leader is Mr Ray Bradfield. This is a new walk, being a sequel to the walk held last year. Meet at Ed. Centre at 10.30 a.m.

Friday June 8 Meeting, 8.00 p.m.

Saturday June 9th Excursion to Faraday School.

Friday July 13th Film night.

July Excursion Fungi, with members of Maryborough F.N.C.

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NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEE

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Castlemaine City Planning Scheme Perrott Lyon Mathieson Pty Ltd has been appointed by the City Council to prepare a planning scheme for the city. A club sub-committee (G. Sitch(chairman), L. Bransgrove, F. Meyer, M. Winterbottom and E. Perkins) has been elected by the committee, to consider submissions.

Treasurer / Subscriptions Family $5; Single $3, Student $1

New Vice President Mr G. Broadway has been elected to the vacant position.

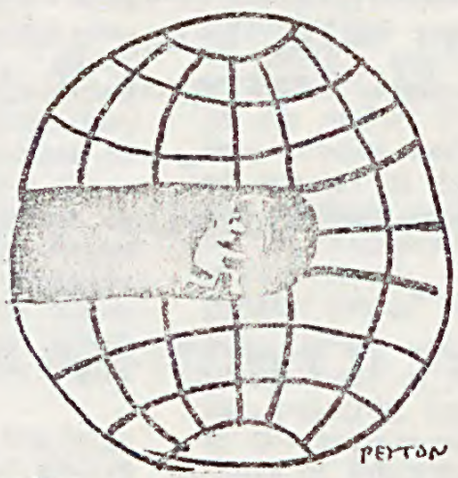
Supper Roster Sec: Mr Bransgrove has been elected.

A NEW BACK-PAGE FEATURE, Provided by G. Broadway.

## Observations Corner

If you have noticed any of the following during the month, please report on it ( or anything else of interest) at the ~~June~~ meeting.

1. A nesting Willy Wagtail
2. A Pallid Cuckoo
3. A young case moth in its case.
4. The empty pupal case of a woodmoth or Goat moth.
5. A wasp dragging a spider to its nest.
6. A Vine moth caterpillar.
7. A Rhinoceros beetle
8. Ants tending Aphis
9. The position of the Southern Cross at about 7 p.m.
10. The last time you heard a Plover
11. A Robin
12. A mass like brown velvet on a Eucalypt leaf.
13. Heaps of earth round horse or cow droppings.
14. An Orchard or Bird Dropping spider.
15. A Greenhood Orchid.




**Quote**

From De Re Metallica, the first authoritative book on mining, published in 1556. Quoted by J. Barnett in an article in Technology Ireland (December 1971)

*"The strongest argument of the detractors is that fields are devastated by mining operations, for which reason formerly Italians were warned by law that no one should dig the earth for metals and so injure their very fertile fields, their vineyards, and their olive groves. Also they argue that the woods and groves are cut down, for their is endless need of wood for timbers, machines, and the smelting of metals. And when the woods and groves are felled then are exterminated the beasts and birds. Further when the ores are washed, the water which has been used poisons the brooks and streams. Thus it is said, it is clear to all that there is greater detriment from mining than the value of the metals which the mining produces."*

E. P.